

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a development mechanism configured to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on an image carrying member into a visual image;

a toner storage detachably installed and configured to store toner therein;

a toner transporting mechanism configured to transport the toner from the toner storage to the development mechanism; and

a supporting device configured to detachably support the toner storage therein and to move between a set position at which the toner storage is engaged with the toner transporting mechanism and a tilt position at which the toner storage is disengaged from the toner transporting mechanism, the set position of the supporting device being located underneath a control panel of the apparatus and in front of the apparatus.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original): The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the supporting device at the tilt position extends out such that at least a portion of the toner storage supported by the supporting device projects from an outside surface of the apparatus.

Claim 4 (original): The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, further comprising a nozzle for transporting the toner, wherein the toner storage comprises a sack for containing toner and a ring portion having a toner discharging unit at a bottom portion of the

sack, and the toner transporting mechanism transports the toner in the toner storage to the development mechanism when the nozzle is connected to the ring portion.

Claim 5 (original): The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein the nozzle connects to and disconnects from the ring portion when the toner storage is inserted into and extracted from the supporting device.

Claim 6 (original): The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein the nozzle is inserted into and extracted from the ring portion when the supporting device moves between the set position and the tilt position.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 6, wherein the toner storage includes a shutter configured to close the toner discharging unit of the toner storage and the ~~shutter~~ shutter replaces the nozzle and moves between a closed position and an opened position of the toner discharging unit.

Claim 8 (original): The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein the supporting device comprises an interlocking mechanism configured to move between the closed position and the opened position of the shutter in conjunction with insertion and extraction of the nozzle.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
a development mechanism configured to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on an image carrying member into a visual image;

a toner storage detachably installed and configured to store toner;

a toner transporting mechanism configured to transport the toner from the toner storage to the development mechanism; and

a supporting device configured to detachably support the toner storage and to move between a set position at which the toner storage is engaged with the toner transporting mechanism and a projecting position at which the toner storage is disengaged from the toner transporting mechanism, the set position of the supporting device being located underneath a control panel of the apparatus and in front of the apparatus.